

6 OCT 1965

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter of 1 October outlining the manner in which the Central Intelligence Agency has organized to assure adequate support of the National Reconnaissance Program. These arrangements will be appropriately reflected in the near future in NRO documentation implementing the new NRP Agreement.

I will be pleased to work directly with Mr. Sheldon in his capacity as Director of the CIA Reconnaissance Programs. I agree that formal program approvals and instructions, budget matters, as well as any request or direction which has a significant effect on the total or relative allocation of CIA personnel and resources to the NRP, should go through this single authoritative point of contact. At the same time, we must also recognize the need for a close day-to-day relationship between various working levels of the CIA, DOD, and the NRO Staff. In particular, the exchange of detailed program information and technical direction necessary in the discharge of the NRO's responsibilities to ensure system engineering and system integration, as outlined in the new NRP Agreement, can be effectively accomplished only through frequent and direct contacts with people at the project management level.

It is my intention to maintain overall project directors for systems in the NRP, and to also identify subsystem directors when the latter are part of an organization other than the one charged with overall project management. Where systems or major subsystems are assigned to the CIA, the system or major subsystem director must have free and direct access to me and the NRO Staff, and vice versa. Obviously, we will have to make specific arrangements for those cases wherein the CIA serves in a support relationship to an NRP project whose director is not located in the CIA.

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION;  
DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

#1/1/65  
Page 1 of 2  
50X1

I feel sure that the necessary guidelines for these working relationships can be evolved with Mr. Sheldon, as appropriate to each NRP activity in which the CIA participates. I will make every effort with him to develop the most effective and harmonious arrangements possible.

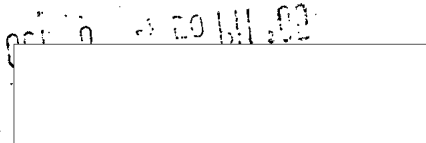
Sincerely,

Signed

Alexander H. Flax  
Director  
National Reconnaissance Office

Mr. Richard Helms  
Deputy Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

2



TOP SECRET

DEC 1 5 11 PM '82

50X1

50X1

~~TOP SECRET~~

NR 0

1 OCT 1965

50X1

Copy 1002 12

The Honorable Alexander Flax  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Al:

The conclusion of a new NRO Agreement has caused us to examine the CIA organizational structure involved so as to assure ourselves that it will adequately support your office and its program. After careful study, we have decided to consolidate all of our satellite activities in the Office of Special Projects under Mr. John Crowley, and they will be responsible for CIA participation in CORONA, FULCRUM, [redacted] and other projects as required. Hanned reconnaissance aircraft development and operations will be the responsibility of the Office of Special Activities under Brigadier General Jack Ledford, which will manage the U-2 and ORCAAT programs. The development of airborne electronic equipment is accomplished in the Office of ELINT under Mr. George Miller, but is responsive to the needs and program management of USA. All of these offices report to the DD/S&T, who is Dr. Albert D. Whoolen. In addition to these activities, we have the [redacted] programs in the Special Operations Division of DD/P under [redacted]

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

~~TOP SECRET~~

50X1

 Page 2

All of this activity will come to a management focus in the person of a Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs, who will report to the DD/S&T. Admiral Raborn and I will count on this individual to keep us informed on the NRP as appropriate. This will provide you with a single authoritative point of contact within the CIA for all our programs. It will replace the present concept of a Program B manager and relieve General Ledford of the responsibility for programs over which he has no real authority. In the future we will expect General Ledford to serve only in a line capacity as part of the CIA organization, in place of his present dual responsibility which has proved difficult to him and us. It is our desire that the CIA program within the NRP be so identified and that the Program B description of our activities be discontinued. I have designated Mr. Huntington Sheldon to serve in the capacity as Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs on an interim basis, and all correspondence or requests bearing on CIA participation in the NRO should be addressed to him. We would hope that working level contact with the NRO Staff and Messrs. Crowley, Ledford, Miller, and Walsh would continue as before.

I believe that the implementation of these management steps will considerably enhance the ability of CIA to support the new NRO Agreement more effectively--an objective to which we are all pledged.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms  
 Richard Helms  
 Deputy Director

cc: Mr. Vance  
 Admiral Raborn  
 Dr. Wheelon  
 Mr. FitzGerald  
 Mr. Reber

Distribution:	Copies 1 & 2 - addressee	8 - D/DCI/NIPE
	3 - Mr. Vance	9 - Mr. Reber
	4 - DCI	10 - ER
	5 - DDCI	11 - DD/S&T/Reg
	6 - DD/S&T	12 - DD/S&T/Reg
	7 - DD/P	

DD/S&T/ADWheelon:ef(30 Sent 1965)

TOP SECRET

[Redacted]

50X1

Page 3

**RECOMMENDED FOR SIGNATURE:**

[Redacted]

OCT 1965

50X1

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

TOP SECRET

[Redacted]

50X1

**Page Denied**